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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 1916

CONTEST FOR PRIZE.

Hundreds of competitors are seeking the \$100 prize offered by the Woodrow Wilson Independent League for the best 150-word answer to the question, "Why have Hughes' speeches been so disappointing?"

The offer was made on behalf of the League through the "Independent Magazine" by Norman Hapgood. The "States" of New Orleans, has entered the field with another prize—a year's subscription to the "States" to anyone who gives reasons more plausible than any of those appearing in the "Independent."

Final judgment will be rendered in the Independent League's competition by Bainbridge Colby, the New York Progressive leader. Among the many contributions already received, the following from Charles Rousseau of New York City is among those certain to have serious consideration:

NO ISSUES, ONLY BITTERNESS

"Lately a judge of our highest tribunal, he now stoops to unfairness. Offering no constructive plans, he attacks his opponent, whose record speaks for itself.

"A shining example of weakness, Hughes tried to revive the dead subject of Southern sectionalism.

"Not daring to expose the hornet's nest, wished on him by the munitions trust, Hughes has been exceedingly timid in speaking on 'War' and 'Peace', subjects of vital importance to the nation—meaning that he favors interests who place dollars above lives of American youth, interests who prefer blood-spilling to diplomacy.

"By trying to disprove facts of the present administration, Hughes weakens himself, and voters are disappointed that a far-sighted judge has become a short-sighted one hundred per cent candidate who has no reason why he should be the next president.

"Having no issues his speeches are filled with knocks and the bitterness of sure defeat."

NARROW AND REACTIONARY

Prof. W. H. Johnson, of Denison University, Granville, Ohio, gives the following answer:

"First, because they assume that President Wilson's acts have virtually all been wrong in purpose, incompetent in execution, and unworthy in motive—an assumption contradictory to the judgment and insulting to the intelligence of the masses of our people.

"Because, again, they show no broad grasp of the great new problems, foreign and domestic, which have confronted President Wilson, and give no indication that Mr. Hughes has framed or can frame a constructive policy better than Wilson's to meet these problems.

"Because, finally, they prove that Hughes has not, as Wilson, identified himself in thought and spirit with the more helpful modern ideals of justice and freedom for all, but has definitely taken his stand with that older reactionary element which would make government the instrument of privilege for the few at the expense of the many, and from which even McKinley himself had broken away, shortly before his assassination."

RESEARCH COUNCIL.

Closer co-operation of technical knowledge with industry, with resulting increased efficiency, is hoped for from the recent organization in New York of the National Research Council. This council consists of about 35 men holding positions in the government, in colleges and universities and in private organizations. Their duty will be to investigate any business or industry that does not seem to be achieving its fullest success. The weak spot will be pointed out and the remedy suggested.

England and Australia have organized such research councils since the war started. They have helped to increase the efficiency of various industries through their work of investigation.

It is thought that by this union of technical knowledge with actual practice in industry the way will be paved for new inventions and discoveries in machinery and methods and the utilization of material formerly wasted. Among the first works of the new council formed in this country will be the investigation of the dyestuffs and nitrate situation. The employment of efficiency engineers in these and other lines of industry ought to accomplish a great deal in developing the fullest resources of every industry and in teaching economy of power and material.

J. Frank Hanley, the Prohibitionist candidate for president, wants war with Mexico. Is he influenced by the fact that all the nations now at war are going dry for military expediency?

SHIFTING THANKSGIVING DAY.

An effort is being made to have Thanksgiving day placed a week earlier in the calendar, making the day come, this year, on November 23 instead of November 30.

The reason assigned is purely commercial. Organizations which are back of the movement explain that they want to give the public another week for its Christmas shopping. People will not start buying for Christmas until after Thanksgiving. With that day coming earlier, the public, it is argued, would buy more Christmas goods.

With all due respect for this argument, we must admit that it's a rather coldblooded proposition. No American festival has less to do with the spirit of commercialism than Thanksgiving Day. It is in fact a religious celebration. It is the one day on which all Americans, regardless of their creed or race, can unite in the religious sentiment of gratitude to God for his blessings. It is our immemorial custom to celebrate it on the last Thursday in November. Changing the date would not necessarily change the spirit of it; but it would be a reflection on the sacred character of the day to shift it from any merely selfish and material motive.

Anyhow, as far as Christmas shopping is concerned, isn't the holiday shopping season long enough already? People used to count on doing their Christmas buying in a week. Now they have, ordinarily, a full month for it. The slogan "Do Your Christmas Shopping Early" has accustomed nearly everybody to start right in after Thanksgiving. It's a fine thing for the shop clerks to distribute the buying in this way and avoid the old-fashioned, killing rush at the end. It's probably a good thing for the public, too; it makes the buying easier and pleasanter. But even as matters stand, there's a tendency to overdo it.

Our Christmas season begins so early in the stores and in the magazines that by the time the great day actually arrives, many people are weary of it. If some of these Thanksgiving shifters had their way, however, we'd start the Christmas season in July.

A DANGEROUS SITUATION.

The visit of the German U-boat to an American port was scrupulously within the law. The commander stayed only three hours when he might properly have stayed twenty-four. He asked for no supplies or repairs, as he might legally have done, thereby evading even the prohibition that Great Britain has tried to impose on neutrals over and above the existing international law.

The conduct of our own government has been just as scrupulously lawful. The visitor was treated with courtesy and allowed to depart without question or hindrance. And when she proceeded to sink several merchantmen outside our territorial waters, there was no effort to molest her, because she appeared to be obeying the pledge given by the German government. The enemy ships were warned, and the passengers and crews allowed to escape. Our own warships acting in an unofficial, humanitarian capacity, rushed to the rescue and picked up the fugitives from the doomed ships.

It is obvious, however, that the moment a German submarine departs from this punctilious behavior, the United States will be obliged to intervene. If a merchantman is attacked within our three-mile limit, if a liner is sunk or a freighter is destroyed, unwarned, with the loss of American lives, Uncle Sam's destroyers must turn from the task of life-saving and attack the offending U-boat.

Even without such an overt act, it may become necessary to call a halt. Our navy cannot continue indefinitely standing by to save passengers and crews while the U-boats blow up ships. That would make our navy virtually a fighting ally of the German navy. The rescue work performed by our destroyers is really the duty of the submarines. The craft that sinks the ships must itself make sure that the noncombatants aboard are not endangered. And if our navy retires, and then ships are destroyed and the passengers and crews set adrift on stormy seas far from land, so that lives are lost, even if they are not American lives, Germany will have broken her pledge. That would bring a severance of relations, and might lead to war. The situation is full of danger.

LOVE OF COUNTRY.

Some how or other, our idea of patriotism is all bound up with armies and great leaders. We begin early to teach public school children tales of the heroes of their country, of great battles and brave deeds. That's all very well, but there is more to patriotism than that.

A writer in the September bulletin of the Vermont free public library commission makes a good suggestion to librarians for arousing patriotism in the hearts of the youngsters. Go on teaching them about Washington and Lincoln, about Bunker Hill and all the rest of it. But don't stop there, and don't overdo that phase. Give the children at the same time, books that will tell them simply and delightfully about the flora and fauna of their own fields and forests. Teach them about our natural resources and encourage them to go out and explore their own country, desert or mountain sides.

Love of country should be more than admiration for the great men who have worked and lived and died for it. There should be also an appreciation of its beauties, its trees and flowers, its birds and animal life, its possibilities for future development. That would be the beginning of a real desire to work toward fulfilling the promises of this great land. And that would be a genuine patriotism.

France is starting to use her uncultivated land. It's a fairly simple matter, for France has very little land that isn't already under cultivation. If the United States followed her example, using the vacant areas near cities to raise grain and vegetables, it's easy to see what would become of the cost-of-living problem in this country.

The wheat crop may be disappointing, but there's nothing wrong with the gold crop.



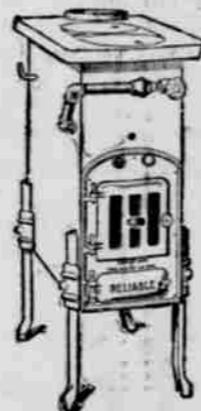
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War Summary

Volhynia, Galicia and Transylvania are still the positions where the heaviest fighting is taking place. Along the Somme bombardments alone have been taking place and east of Beby-en-Santerre, the Germans threw two vain attacks against the French.

In Macedonia the hostilities have confined mainly to patrol engagements

and artillery duels. Throughout the Austro-Italian theatre, little fighting of moment has taken place.

The Austro-Germans, according to Berlin and Vienna, have taken trenches over a front of one and a quarter miles from the Russians and made prisoners thirty officers and 1,900 men. West of Lutsk, in Volhynia the Russians attacked violently many times, but according to Vienna, were everywhere repulsed with great losses. In the southern Carpathians, near Dorna Wa-

tra additional heights have been taken from the Russians by the Teutonic allies.

In Transylvania the Rumanians continue to hold back the Austro-Germans almost everywhere. In the Ural valley they have driven the invaders back across the Rumanian border.

TRAIN KILLS SOLDIER.
NOGALES, Ariz., Oct. 17.—Death

from being run over by a railway train," was the verdict rendered late today by a coroner's jury, in the death of Private George K. Shillett, of Selma, Calif., a member of Company K, Second California Infantry, whose body was found early Saturday on the Southern Pacific Railway tracks. The jury found nothing to support the theory that Shillett had been murdered.

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